

CHAPTER 4

VENTILATION

SECTION 401 GENERAL

401.1 Scope. This chapter shall govern the ventilation of spaces within a building intended to be occupied. Mechanical exhaust systems, including exhaust systems serving clothes dryers and cooking appliances; hazardous exhaust systems; dust, stock and refuse conveyor systems; subslab soil exhaust systems; smoke control systems; energy recovery ventilation systems and other systems specified in Section 502 shall comply with Chapter 5.

Exception: Residential buildings complying with the ventilation requirements in Minnesota Rules, Chapter 1322.

401.2 Ventilation required. Every occupied space shall be ventilated by natural means in accordance with Section 402 or by mechanical means in accordance with Section 403. Where the air infiltration rate in a dwelling unit is less than 5 air changes per hour when tested with a blower door at a pressure of 0.2-inch water column (50 Pa) in accordance with Section 402.4.1.2 of the *International Energy Conservation Code*, the dwelling unit shall be ventilated by mechanical means in accordance with Section 403.

401.3 When required. Ventilation shall be provided during the periods that the room or space is occupied.

401.4 Intake opening location. Air intake openings shall comply with all of the following:

- A. Intake openings shall be located a minimum of 10 feet (3048 mm) from lot lines or buildings on the same lot. Where openings front on a street or public way, the distance shall be measured to the centerline of the street or public way.
- B. Mechanical outdoor air intake openings shall be located a minimum of 10 feet (3048 mm) from any hazardous or noxious contaminant, such as chimneys, plumbing vents, streets, alleys, parking lots, and loading docks, except as specified in Item C or Section 501.2.1. Outdoor air intake openings shall be permitted to be located less than 10 feet (3048 mm) horizontally from streets, alleys, parking lots, and loading docks provided that the openings are located not less than 25 feet (7620 mm) vertically above such locations. Where openings front on a street or public way, the distance shall be measured to the centerline of the street or public way.
- C. Intake openings shall be located not less than 3 feet (914 mm) below contaminant sources where such sources are located within 10 feet (3048 mm) of the opening.

401.5 Intake opening protection. Air intake openings that terminate outdoors shall be protected with corrosion-resistant screens, louvers or grilles. Openings in louvers, grilles and screens shall be sized in accordance with Table 401.5, and shall be protected against local weather conditions. Louvers

that protect air intake openings in structures located in hurricane-prone regions, as defined in the *International Building Code*, shall comply with AMCA 550. Outdoor air intake openings located in exterior walls shall meet the provisions for exterior wall opening protectives in accordance with the *International Building Code*.

TABLE 401.5
OPENING SIZES IN LOUVERS, GRILLES AND SCREENS
PROTECTING AIR INTAKE OPENINGS

OUTDOOR OPENING TYPE	MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM OPENING SIZES IN LOUVERS, GRILLES AND SCREENS MEASURED IN ANY DIRECTION
Intake openings in residential occupancies	Not < 1/4 inch and not > 1/2 inch
Intake openings in other than residential occupancies	> 1/4 inch and not > 1 inch

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

401.6 Contaminant sources. Stationary local sources producing airborne particulates, heat, odors, fumes, spray, vapors, smoke or gases in such quantities as to be irritating or injurious to health shall be provided with an exhaust system in accordance with Chapter 5 or a means of collection and removal of the contaminants. Such exhaust shall discharge directly to an *approved* location at the exterior of the building.

SECTION 402 NATURAL VENTILATION

[B] 402.1 Natural ventilation. *Natural ventilation* of an occupied space shall be through windows, doors, louvers or other openings to the outdoors. The operating mechanism for such openings shall be provided with ready access so that the openings are readily controllable by the building occupants.

[B] 402.2 Ventilation area required. The minimum openable area to the outdoors shall be 4 percent of the floor area being ventilated.

[B] 402.3 Adjoining spaces. Where rooms and spaces without openings to the outdoors are ventilated through an adjoining room, the opening to the adjoining rooms shall be unobstructed and shall have an area not less than 8 percent of the floor area of the interior room or space, but not less than 25 square feet (2.3 m²). The minimum openable area to the outdoors shall be based on the total floor area being ventilated.

Exception: Exterior openings required for ventilation shall be permitted to open into a thermally isolated sunroom addition or patio cover, provided that the openable area between the sunroom addition or patio cover and the interior room has an area of not less than 8 percent of the floor area of the interior room or space, but not less than 20 square feet (1.86 m²). The minimum openable area to

the outdoors shall be based on the total floor area being ventilated.

[B] 402.4 Openings below grade. Where openings below grade provide required *natural ventilation*, the outside horizontal clear space measured perpendicular to the opening shall be one and one-half times the depth of the opening. The depth of the opening shall be measured from the average adjoining ground level to the bottom of the opening.

SECTION 403 MECHANICAL VENTILATION

403.1 Ventilation system. Mechanical ventilation shall be provided by a method of supply air and return or *exhaust air*. The amount of supply air shall be approximately equal to the amount of return and *exhaust air*. The system shall not be prohibited from producing negative or positive pressure. The system to convey *ventilation air* shall be designed and installed in accordance with Chapter 6.

403.2 Outdoor air required. The minimum outdoor airflow rate shall be determined in accordance with Section 403.3. Ventilation supply systems shall be designed to deliver the required rate of outdoor airflow to the *breathing zone* within each *occupiable space*.

Exception: Where the *registered design professional* demonstrates that an engineered ventilation system design will prevent the maximum concentration of contaminants from exceeding that obtainable by the rate of outdoor air ventilation determined in accordance with Section 403.3, the minimum required rate of outdoor air shall be reduced in accordance with such engineered system design.

403.2.1 Recirculation of air. The outdoor air required by Section 403.3 shall not be recirculated. Air in excess of that required by Section 403.3 shall not be prohibited from being recirculated as a component of supply air to building spaces, except that:

1. Ventilation air shall not be recirculated from one *dwelling* to another or to dissimilar occupancies.
2. Supply air to a swimming pool and associated deck areas shall not be recirculated unless such air is dehumidified to maintain the relative humidity of the area at 60 percent or less. Air from this area shall not be recirculated to other spaces where more than 10 percent of the resulting supply airstream consists of air recirculated from these spaces.
3. Where mechanical exhaust is required by Note b in Table 403.3, recirculation of air from such spaces shall be prohibited. All air supplied to such spaces

shall be exhausted, including any air in excess of that required by Table 403.3.

4. Where mechanical exhaust is required by Note g in Table 403.3, mechanical exhaust is required and recirculation is prohibited where more than 10 percent of the resulting supply airstream consists of air recirculated from these spaces.

403.2.2 Transfer air. Except where recirculation from such spaces is prohibited by Table 403.3, air transferred from occupiable spaces is not prohibited from serving as *makeup air* for required exhaust systems in such spaces as kitchens, baths, toilet rooms, elevators and smoking lounges. The amount of transfer air and *exhaust air* shall be sufficient to provide the flow rates as specified in Section 403.3. The required outdoor airflow rates specified in Table 403.3 shall be introduced directly into such spaces or into the occupied spaces from which air is transferred or a combination of both.

403.3 Outdoor airflow rate. Ventilation systems shall be designed to have the capacity to supply the minimum outdoor airflow rate determined in accordance with this section. The occupant load utilized for design of the ventilation system shall not be less than the number determined from the estimated maximum occupant load rate indicated in Table 403.3. Ventilation rates for occupancies not represented in Table 403.3 shall be those for a listed *occupancy* classification that is most similar in terms of occupant density, activities and building construction; or shall be determined by an *approved* engineering analysis. The ventilation system shall be designed to supply the required rate of *ventilation air* continuously during the period the building is occupied, except as otherwise stated in other provisions of the code.

With the exception of smoking lounges, the ventilation rates in Table 403.3 are based on the absence of smoking in occupiable spaces. Where smoking is anticipated in a space other than a smoking lounge, the ventilation system serving the space shall be designed to provide ventilation over and above that required by Table 403.3 in accordance with accepted engineering practice.

Exception: The occupant load is not required to be determined based on the estimated maximum occupant load rate indicated in Table 403.3 where *approved* statistical data document the accuracy of an alternate anticipated occupant density.

403.3.1 Zone outdoor airflow. The minimum outdoor airflow required to be supplied to each zone shall be determined as a function of *occupancy* classification and space air distribution effectiveness in accordance with Sections 403.3.1.1 through 403.3.1.3.

TABLE 403.3—continued
MINIMUM VENTILATION RATES

OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION	OCCUPANT DENSITY #/1000 FT ² ^a	PEOPLE OUTDOOR AIRFLOW RATE IN BREATHING ZONE, R _p CFM/PERSON	AREA OUTDOOR AIRFLOW RATE IN BREATHING ZONE, R _a CFM/FT ² ^a	EXHAUST AIRFLOW RATE CFM/FT ² ^a
Hotels, motels, resorts and dormitories				
Multipurpose assembly	120 (O.C.P.)	5	0.06	—
Bathrooms/toilet—private ^b	—	—	—	25/50 ^f
Bedroom/living room	15 (O.C.P.)	5	0.06	—
Conference/meeting	50 (O.C.P.)	5	0.06	—
Dormitory sleeping areas	20 (O.C.P.)	5	0.06	—
Gambling casinos	150 (O.C.P.)	7.5	0.18	—
Lobbies/prefunction	30 (O.C.P.)	7.5	0.06	—
Offices				
Conference rooms	50	5	0.06	—
Office spaces	5	5	0.06	—
Reception areas	30	5	0.06	—
Telephone/data entry	60	5	0.06	—
Main entry lobbies	10	5	0.06	—
Private dwellings, single and multiple				
Garages, common for multiple units ^b	—	—	—	0.75
Garages, separate for each dwelling ^b	—	—	—	100 cfm per car
Kitchens ^b	—	—	—	25/100 ^f
Living areas ^c	Based upon number of bedrooms. First bedroom, 2; each additional bedroom, 1	0.35 ACH but not less than 15 cfm/person	—	—
Toilet rooms and bathrooms ^g	—	—	—	20/50 ^f
Public spaces				
Corridors	—	—	0.06	—
Elevator car	—	—	—	1.0
Shower room (per shower head) ^h	—	—	—	50/20 ^f
Smoking lounges ^b	70	60	—	—
Toilet rooms — public ^g	—	—	—	50/70 ^e
Places of religious worship	120	5	0.06	—
Courtrooms	70	5	0.06	—
Legislative chambers	50	5	0.06	—
Libraries	10	5	0.12	—
Museums (children's)	40	7.5	0.12	—
Museums/galleries	40	7.5	0.06	—
Retail stores, sales floors and showroom floors				
Sales (except as below)	15	7.5	0.12	—
Dressing rooms	—	—	—	0.25
Mall common areas	40	7.5	0.06	—
Shipping and receiving	—	—	0.12	—
Smoking lounges ^b	70	60	—	—
Storage rooms	—	—	0.12	—
Warehouses (see storage)	—	—	—	—

(continued)

TABLE 403.3—continued
MINIMUM VENTILATION RATES

OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION	OCCUPANT DENSITY #/1000 FT ² ^a	PEOPLE OUTDOOR AIRFLOW RATE IN BREATHING ZONE, R _p , CFM/PERSON	AREA OUTDOOR AIRFLOW RATE IN BREATHING ZONE, R _a , CFM/FT ² ^a	EXHAUST AIRFLOW RATE CFM/FT ² ^a
Specialty shops				
Automotive motor-fuel dispensing stations ^b	—	—	—	1.5
Barber	25	7.5	0.06	0.5
Beauty salons ^b	25	20	0.12	0.6
Nail salons ^{b, h}	25	20	0.12	0.6
Embalming room ^b	—	—	—	2.0
Pet shops (animal areas) ^b	10	7.5	0.18	0.9
Supermarkets	8	7.5	0.06	—
Sports and amusement				
Disco/dance floors	100	20	0.06	—
Bowling alleys (seating areas)	40	10	0.12	—
Game arcades	20	7.5	0.18	—
Ice arenas without combustion engines	—	—	0.30	0.5
Gym, stadium, arena (play area)	—	—	0.30	—
Spectator areas	150	7.5	0.06	—
Swimming pools (pool and deck area)	—	—	0.48	—
Health club/aerobics room	40	20	0.06	—
Health club/weight room	10	20	0.06	—
Storage				
Repair garages, enclosed parking garages ^{b, d}	—	—	—	0.75
Warehouses	—	—	0.06	—
Theaters				
Auditoriums (see education)	—	—	—	—
Lobbies	150	5	0.06	—
Stages, studios	70	10	0.06	—
Ticket booths	60	5	0.06	—
Transportation				
Platforms	100	7.5	0.06	—
Transportation waiting	100	7.5	0.06	—
Workrooms				
Bank vaults/safe deposit	5	5	0.06	—
Darkrooms	—	—	—	1.0
Copy, printing rooms	4	5	0.06	0.5
Meat processing ^c	10	15	—	—
Pharmacy (prep. area)	10	5	0.18	—
Photo studios	10	5	0.12	—
Computer (without printing)	4	5	0.06	—

For SI: 1 cubic foot per minute = 0.0004719 m³/s, 1 ton = 908 kg, 1 cubic foot per minute per square foot = 0.00508 m³/(s · m²),
°C = [(°F) - 32]/1.8, 1 square foot = 0.0929 m².

- Based upon *net occupiable floor area*.
- Mechanical exhaust required and the recirculation of air from such spaces is prohibited (see Section 403.2.1, Item 3).
- Spaces unheated or maintained below 50°F are not covered by these requirements unless the occupancy is continuous.
- Ventilation systems in enclosed parking garages shall comply with Section 404.
- Rates are per water closet or urinal. The higher rate shall be provided where the exhaust system is designed to operate intermittently. The lower rate shall be permitted only where the exhaust system is designed to operate continuously while occupied.
- Rates are per room unless otherwise indicated. The higher rate shall be provided where the exhaust system is designed to operate intermittently. The lower rate shall be permitted only where the exhaust system is designed to operate continuously while occupied.
- Mechanical exhaust is required and recirculation is prohibited except that recirculation shall be permitted where the resulting supply airstream consists of not more than 10 percent air recirculated from these spaces (see Section 403.2.1, Items 2 and 4).
- For nail salons, each nail station shall be provided with a *source capture system* capable of exhausting not less than 50 cfm per station.